

We claim:

1. An article having at least one surface covered by a water-resistant coating comprising:  
a water-soluble superabsorbent polymer;  
optionally a viscosity modifying agent; and  
a binder.
2. An article according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of tapes, mats, fabrics, rovings, fibrous strands, laminates, sheets, rods and cables.
3. An article according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of molded articles, woven fabrics, scrims, wood and paper products, and construction materials.
4. An article according to claim 1, which comprises a fibrous reinforcing material.
5. An article according to claim 4, wherein the fibrous reinforcing material is selected from the group consisting of glass fibers, polymer fibers, carbon fibers, natural fibers, and blends thereof.
6. An article according to claim 5, wherein the reinforcing fibers comprise polymer fibers selected from the group consisting of aramid fibers, nylon fibers, Kevlar fibers, polyester fibers, polyethylene fibers, polypropylene fibers, and combinations thereof.
7. An article according to claim 6, wherein the polymer fibers comprise aramid fibers.
8. ~~A water-resistant coating comprising a superabsorbent water-soluble polymer, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is obtained as an aqueous solution of a polymer precursor and cured to form a superabsorbent polymer.~~
9. The water-resistant coating of claim 8, wherein the superabsorbent water-soluble polymer, after curing, absorbs up to about 400 times its initial dry

weight in water when immersed in an aqueous environment, and desorbs water when the coating is dried.

10. The water-resistant coating of claim 8, wherein the coating has a swell rate of from about 50 grams of deionized water per gram of dry coating to about 340 grams of deionized water per gram of dry coating, in the first minute.
11. The water-resistant coating of claim 8, wherein the coating has a swell rate of from about 33 grams of salt water per gram of dry coating to about 66 grams of salt water per gram of dry coating, in the first minute.
12. The water-resistant coating of claim 9, wherein the coating has a swell rate of about 126 grams of water per gram of dry coating, and about 50 grams of salt water per gram of dry coating, in the first minute.
13. An article comprising the water resistant coating of claim 9.
14. An article comprising the water resistant coating of claim 11.
15. An article comprising the water-resistant coating of claim 12.
16. A method of providing water resistance to the surface of an article comprising:
  - a) preparing a liquid coating composition comprising a water-soluble superabsorbent polymer precursor and a viscosity modifying agent;
  - b) applying the liquid coating composition to the surface of the article to form a liquid coating; and
  - c) drying and curing the liquid coating to form a water-absorbing, water-resistant coating layer comprising a superabsorbent polymer on the surface of the article.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of applying the liquid coating composition to the surface of the article comprises contacting the liquid coating composition with the surface of the article to form a layer of liquid coating over the entire surface of the article.

18. A method of providing corrosion resistance to the surface of an article comprising:
- a) preparing a liquid coating composition comprising a water-soluble superabsorbent polymer precursor and a viscosity modifying agent;
  - b) applying the liquid coating composition to the surface of the article to form a liquid coating; and
  - c) drying and curing the liquid coating to form a water-absorbing, corrosion-resistant coating layer comprising a superabsorbent polymer on the surface of the article.